

USSN 09/824,453

-2-

July 15, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method of updating computer software and/or data in a recipient computer comprising the steps of:

said recipient computer sending an update request as an e-mail message to an owner computer;

said owner computer automatically analysing the update request and preparing a corresponding software and/or data update ~~response~~ in response to receiving the update request e-mail;

said owner computer automatically sending said software and/or data update ~~response as an e-mail message~~ to said recipient computer, wherein the software and/or data update comprises an email message having one or more files to be updated ~~are sent included~~ as attachment files in the e-mail message; and

said recipient computer automatically responding to said software and/or data update ~~response~~ by opening the attachment files and updating said software and/or data.

Claim 2 (currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the update request is compiled at the recipient computer by reference to a data directory, and the software and/or data update ~~response~~ is compiled at the owner computer by reference to the same data directory, only files identified in the update request being updated in the software and/or data update ~~response~~.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the software and/or data update ~~response~~ is protected by a password.

Claim 5 (original). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the e-mail update request is transmitted via the internet.

Best Available Copy

USSN 09/824,453

-3-

July 15, 2004

Claim 6 (original). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the recipient computer is protected by a fire-wall through which it communicates in sending said e-mail update request.

Claim 7 (original). A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the computer software and/or data to be updated consists of one of a virus signature, a software application or data to be backed-up by the owner computer.

Best Available Copy